



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**City of Falls Church Floodplain Management Program
Earns Lower Insurance Rates for Floodplain Residents**

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – Residents living in the City of Falls Church floodplain will enjoy reduced flood insurance rates as a result of the City's floodplain management practices that exceed National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. The NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) has awarded the City a flood classification of 8, in a system that ranks communities on a scale of 1-10, with 1 demonstrating the lowest level of flood risk. This equals a 10 percent reduction in flood insurance rates for the City's floodplain residents.

The CRS is a voluntary program whereby flood insurance premiums are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community actions that meet three goals: (1) Reduce flood losses; (2) Facilitate accurate insurance rating; and (3) Promote awareness of flood insurance.

The CRS classes for local communities are based on 18 creditable activities, organized under four categories: (1) Public Information; (2) Mapping and Regulations; (3) Flood Damage Reduction; and (4) Flood Preparedness.

The City received credit points for 11 risk abatement activities:

1. Maintaining elevation certificates for new and substantially improved buildings;
2. Annually publicizing information from the community's latest flood insurance rate map;
3. Organizing public outreach programs to educate community members about living on a floodplain, and making informational materials available in City Hall (300 Park Ave.) and online at www.fallschurchva.gov;
4. Making flood protection information available at the Mary Riley Styles Public Library (120 N. Virginia Ave.);
5. Obtaining additional flood data by conducting and adopting new flood studies to provide new base flood elevations and floodways for areas on the flood insurance rate map;

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6. Preserving approximately 18.9 acres of open space in the special flood hazard area;
7. Instituting higher regulatory standards of the Building Code, the International Residential Code, improvement construction, and other standards;
8. Improving flood data maintenance using digitized maps and parcel records;
9. Strengthening stormwater management regulation enforcement, positive drainage from building sites, soil and erosion control, and water quality;
10. Promoting drainage system maintenance by publicizing and enforcing regulations that prohibit dumping in the drainage system; and
11. Following dam safety practices, a state program for which all Virginia communities receive credit.

There are 1,049 CRS communities nationwide, as of Oct. 1, 2006. Of those communities, 422 (40 percent) are rated as Class 8. Of the 19 CRS communities in Virginia, none have attained a level of flood risk lower than 8.

Prior to this reclassification, Falls Church earned a CRS flood rating of 10. The City is committed to further improving its CRS rating by continuing to expand flood management practices.

For more information about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's CRS, visit www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm.

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